YAMAP0783US Docket Ne

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re patent application of

MAR 0 3 2004

Technology Center 2600

Applicant:

Katayama et al.

Serial No.:

09/955,356

Filed: For:

September 18, 2001 CODING DEVICE, CODING METHOD, PROGRAM AND RECORDING MEDIUM

Art Unit: 2615 Examiner:

Unknown

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Filing Date:

Sir:

1.	Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98, and in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, the Office's attention is
directed '	to the patents, pending applications, publications and other information listed on the attached PTO-1449. A
copy of e	each listed document is enclosed, except for (a) those previously cited or submitted to the Office in the
following	application(s) upon which this application relies for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120, and (b) any
U.S. pate	ent or U.S. patent application publication if the present application was filed after June 30, 2003 or entered
the natio	nal stage under 35 USC § 371 after June 30, 2003:
	Serial No.

Regarding any document, publication or other information for which a date is not given on the attached PTO-1449, Applicant(s) believe(s) the same may qualify as "prior" art to this application and should be treated accordingly, although Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to contest the prior art status of any document, publication or information, should issue arise.

- 2. Regarding each listed document that is not in the English language, an English-language translation accompanies this Statement as indicated on the attached PTO-1449 or a concise explanation of the relevance of the document is set forth in the following document(s):
  - (a) X A copy of each English language version of a search report (or EPO Search Report) indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office of each document being submitted from the search report, is being submitted herewith or has previously been submitted.
  - (b) \_\_\_\_ Attached is a "Concise Explanation of Relevance of Non-English Language Documents".
- 3. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b) this Statement is being filed (one must be checked):
  - Within 3 months of the filing date or date of entry into the National Stage.
  - (b) X Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. If this Statement is not filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, the required certification is given below or. in the absence thereof, the Office is authorized to charge the required fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988 for consideration of this Statement.
  - Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits after a first or second submission after final rejection under 37 C.F.R. 1.129(a).

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referenced as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the below date with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Mark Saralino

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EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER:

Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

## Information Disclosure Statement PTO-1449 (Modified)

The identification of any reference is not intended to be, and should not be understood as being, an admission that such publication, in fact, constitutes "prior art" within the meaning of applicable law since, for example, a given reference may have a later effective date than first seems apparent or the reference may have an effective date which can be antedated. The "prior art" status of any reference is a matter to be resolved during prosecution.